MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Government are aware that the road in question has already been partly constructed under the Ryots Road Rules by the people themselves?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): No, Sir.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Is there not a provision to say that whenever there is necessity for certain roads to be constructed by the people, the Government must view with sympathy the work that has to be carried out by the latter.

PRESIDENT: Is it the honourable member's interpretation that the rules regarding the ryots road should be viewed with sympathy by Government?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): My question is this. Is it not the duty of the P. W. D. to consider about construction of the road and not wait until the rules are carried out by the people themselves?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): There are certain definite rules on the subject, and those rules have to be carried out.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Do Government think that they are necessary rules?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): It is a matter of opinion. Government do not make unnecessary rules.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Then may I know whether the Government would take up the construction of useful roads?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Government do not take up any other than useful roads.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Then may I know why this useful road has not been taken up for construction?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): There are more important roads waiting for provision of funds.

Plumbago Powder.

8. *MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how many tons or cwts. of plumbago powder are required for the use of the foundry work in the P. W. D. Workshop at Trivandrum;

(*b*) whether the plumbago powder is being obtained from contractors;

(*c*) whether the order for the powder is given on contract;

(*d*) whether tenders are being called for, for the giving of the said contract;

(*e*) from where the powder is being got down or purchased at present;

(*f*) whether Travancoreans have offered to supply the powder from Travancore;

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

(*g*) what has become of the application of the Travancoreans ; and

(*h*) why the order is not given to a Travancorean ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) :

(*a*) About 9 cwts per year.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) and (*d*) As the quantity required from time to time is small, quotations are called for.

(*e*) From the contractor whose quotation is the lowest, either in Travancore or outside.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) The applications of Travancoreans are given due consideration and orders for the supply are placed with them if the sample supplied by them is found, on testing, not inferior in quality to that supplied by outsiders.

(*h*) Does not arise in view of answer to (*g*).

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : In answer to part (*e*) may I know, how many contractors have submitted quotations to supply plumbago powder in the years 1110 and 1111 ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : I have no information.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know the exact nature of the quotation submitted by outsiders and Travancoreans on the subject ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : The contract given will depend upon the quality as well as the price of the article.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know the names of the contractors as well as the amounts offered for the supply of plumbago during the year 1111 ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : I claim notice.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Sir, in the face of a very clear question put to the Government, it is not quite reasonable that the Government member should ask for notice,

PRESIDENT : The honourable member must be aware that the question may be very clear, but the answer may require preparation.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : In the face of the answer to part (*c*) of the question may I know whether the Government are aware that the quotation given by the Travancorean was the lowest in the matter of supply of plumbago ?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : It is not only the lowest tender or quotation that has to be considered. The quality of the material has to be considered also. Though it is a very small thing it is very important for the workshops to have good quality.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Government are aware that plumbago is now being brought down by an outside contractor?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): It is quite possible.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Government are aware that year before the last, a Travancorean was supplying plumbago to the workshops which is now being done by an outsider?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): It may be so.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Then may I know why in the face of the existence of Travancoreans who are prepared to supply plumbago for the lowest rate, preference has been given to an outsider?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): It depends upon the quality as well as the price offered.

Water-tax and house-tax in Trivandrum town.

9. *MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the rate at which and the date from which water-tax is collected from houses in the Trivandrum town;

(*b*) whether the water-tax will be collected from houses which are vacant;

(*c*) whether remission of water-tax and house-tax cannot be granted to vacant houses which are intended to be let out but are not actually let out; and

(*d*) the number of applications from the people of various localities for constructing fountains on by-lanes, the number sactioned, and the number rejected, with reasons for the same?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) From 1-1-1111 M. E., at the rate of three per cent of the net rental value of buildings.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes. (Under Sections 73 and 93 of the Travancore Municipal Regulation).

(*d*) No separate list is being maintained of the applications for erecting stand posts in by-lanes. From the available statistics it is seen that 35 applications were received, of which 18 were complied with. Eight applications were rejected; six for the reason that they did not satisfy the conditions mentioned in paragraph 24 of the printed report on the Willingdon Water Works and two because they related to private lanes. Of the remaining nine applications, three relate to the area under the second stage works now in progress, and one has already been sanctioned but is awaiting execution. The remaining five applications are pending consideration.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly